

Washington, DC – Today Rep. Charlie Wilson (OH-6) voted in favor of The Rural Energy Savings Act, or “Rural Star.” The bill will provide loans to American families and farmers to improve their energy efficiency and lower their utility bills, creating American manufacturing and installation jobs in the process.

“Making your home or business more energy efficient is the right thing to do, but it can be cost prohibitive for many families and small business owners,” Wilson said. “Making small government loans to help with investments in energy efficiency is the right way to go and it will create good paying jobs.”

The programs in this bill will offer homeowners loans of about \$3,000 to \$7,500 to eliminate the upfront cost of home energy upgrades, which customers will then repay over 10 years. The energy savings home or business owners realize from the renovations will cover most of the cost of the loan. The Rural Star and Loan Star programs in this bill will boost demand for energy efficient products, materials, and construction and installation services that are made in America; over 90% of items like caulking, insulation, HVAC systems, hot water heaters, sealant, windows, doors other structural materials are made in America.

The Rural Energy Savings Act is part of the Democratic “Make it in America” national manufacturing strategy to create the high-skill, high-wage jobs of the future—promoting American competitiveness, innovation, and exports. The strategy also includes:

- Closing tax loopholes that encourage corporations to outsource U.S. jobs overseas.
- Providing hometown tax credits to help small businesses hire new employees and sell their products and innovation overseas.
- Boosting incentives to create American clean energy jobs like making state-of-the-art wind turbines and solar panels—paid for by ending corporate welfare to Big Oil.
- Strengthening rules that U.S. and its contractors buy products made in America, especially to build transportation, energy, and communications infrastructure.
- Demanding that China and other countries honor fair trade principles or lose American business.
- Giving incentives to hire and re-train America’s returning veterans for new clean energy jobs.
- Strengthening partnerships with businesses to retrain America’s workers for jobs of the future.

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